GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:570
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
ECONOMIC CO OPERATION WITH IRAQ
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance economic co-operation with Iraq;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether talks have been held by Iraqi leaders with the special envoy of India regarding India`s help in reconstruction of Iraq;

(d) if so, the details of discussions held;

(e) the areas where assistance have been offered by India; and

(f) the response of Iraqi Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes. It is proposed to enhance economic cooperation with Iraq through utilization of institutional mechanisms and by promoting increased contacts between the two sides through visits of Iraqi business delegations and businessmen and dissemination of related information. India is also providing humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

(c) & (d) Yes. Shri C.R. Gharekhan, Special Envoy to West Asia, visited Baghdad from 22nd to 25th May 2005. He called on the Iraqi Prime Minister and other senior Ministers of the Government of Iraq and reiterated Government of India`s commitment to assist Iraq in its economic reconstruction.

(e) The Government of India has offered assistance to Iraq in the reconstruction work through capacity-building and development of its human resources by providing training in India to Iraqi officials in wide ranging areas.

(f) The Iraqi Government appreciates the assistance being provided by the Government of India in Iraq`s reconstruction efforts.